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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-11

BAC

SEPTEMBER 30, 1943

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROPS

Indications September 1 were for total crop output 7 percent less than last year but still 4 percent above any previous season. Total crop acreage is largest in 10 years. Will be record crops of beans, peas, soybeans, peanuts, rice, potatoes, flaxseed, and grapes; large crops of hay, oats, barley, and grain sorghums; about average crops of wheat, rye, cotton, tobacco, sweetpotatoes, and the two sugar crops combined. Drought rather serious in central Eastern States, and streaks in the South and Mississippi Valley. Corn crop, forecast at 2,985 million bushels, would be about 6 percent below last year's record but second largest crop in 23 years. Total wheat crop 835 million bushels, 15 percent less than last year but 13 percent above 1932-41 average. Oats crop estimated 1,145 million bushels, nearly 16 percent below last year but 12 percent above the average. Barley 333 million bushels, 22 percent under last year. Rice 71 million bushels, 7 percent larger than record crop of last year and 50 percent above the average.

FRUIT

Total tonnage of 8 deciduous fruits (apples, peaches, pears, grapes, cherries, plums, prunes, apricots) 16 percent under last year and 11 percent below average. Total apple crop 28 percent smaller than last year and 24 percent below average. Total tonnage of all citrus fruits likely to equal large crop of last year. Combined tonnage of deciduous and citrus fruits indicated September 1 about 11 percent under last year but 6 percent larger than 10-year average.

Production of tree nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds, filberts) this year about 10 percent above 1942 and 21 percent above average.

VEGETABLES

Record large crops of potatoes, dry beans, and dry field peas being harvested this year. Sweetpotatoes larger crop than last year and slightly above 1932-41 average. However, total output of fresh truck crops about 9 percent below last year, due to smaller acreage; likewise total truck crops for processing around 7 percent under last year; but all these crops above average. Vegetable prices quite a bit higher this fall than last, probable result of strong consumer demand and rationed canned goods.

LIVESTOCK

Total meat production this year sets a record and may be about as large next year; but non-civilian demands in 1944 will be about a fourth larger than this year, consequently civilian supply will be smaller.

Fall pig crop may be smaller than June 1 indications, but total hog slaughter in 1943-44 season may reach 100 million head. Although feed situation will probably mean lighter weights, pork output this season may run 1 to 2 billion pounds over the 12 billion figure of 1942-43. Feed and price situation probably will mean smaller pig crop next spring. W.F.A. support price on good to choice hogs, 200-240 pounds, at Chicago, will be \$12.50 from Oct. 1 until March 31, 1945. O.P.A. ceiling price on hogs at Chicago, \$14.75, effective October 4.

Cattle slaughter this year probably will total slightly larger than in 1942; nevertheless, the number of cattle and calves may increase 2 to 3 million head during 1943. Number of cattle in country large relative to feed supply. Feeding outlook in 1943-44 not promising; feed limited and costs higher than last year. Movement of cattle into feed lots so far has been smaller this year than last but may increase later in the fall. Present runs of cattle from western ranges to market very heavy.

Sheep and lambs moving to market in large numbers: Indications are for continued downward trend in sheep numbers which began last year. Number of sheep next Jan. 1 may be 2 million head below year ago and 1944 lamb crop likely to be smaller because of heavy slaughter of ewes during recent months. Liquidation largely the result of shortage of skilled help. Present high

feed costs and smaller price margin for fat lambs are discouraging to feeders.

Farmers have less wool to sell this year than last but 1943 wool income will be about like last year's record income of \$157 million.

FEED

Feed supply large but poorly distributed and must take care of an unusually large number of livestock. Total supply of feed grains estimated about 147 million tons, 7 million below record high of last year but 26 million above 1937-41 average. This estimate includes 400 million bushels of domestic wheat usable for feed, 40

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	AUG. 15 1943	SEPT. 15 1943	
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.27	1.30	1.46
Corn, bu. dol.	1.09	1.09	1.06
Oats, bu. dol.	.65	.69	.658
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.81	20.20	20.45
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.59	1.34	1.19
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	13.70	14.10	12.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.30	12.10	8.94
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.70	13.50	11.10
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.80	12.50	9.70
Butterfat, lb. ct.	49.8	50.3	43.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	3.14	3.21	2.72
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	25.6	25.2	18.8
Eggs, doz. ct.	38.8	41.6	40.5

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

million bushels of rye, expected imports of oats, barley, feed wheat, and domestic supply of four principal feed grains. Total supply of principal feed concentrates estimated 158 million tons, 4 percent below 1942. Supply of all protein feeds, converted to oil mill equivalent, estimated at 11.6 million tons, slightly above last year. Allowing for a further increase in livestock this year, total 1943-44 feed grain supply per animal unit estimated about 12 percent smaller than in 1942-43 and 8 percent below 1937-41 average. By next fall stocks of grain probably will be reduced to smallest since drought years.

DAIRY

Milk supply situation growing rather tight. Production probably has hit peak, whereas consumption is still increasing about 1 percent a month. Considered probable, under present conditions, that milk production in 1944 may total about 115 billion pounds, compared with 118 billion pounds in 1943 and 119 billion pounds in 1942. Largest decreases in production likely to occur in North Atlantic and Pacific Coast States, unless those regions get considerably more feed. Stocks of butter in storage over 200 million pounds, mostly all owned by the Government. Percentage of butter required to be set aside for Government use cut from 30 to 20 percent in September and eliminated for October; will help civilian supply. However, large percentage of butter is being bought in regions close to centers of production; recently more than half of the butter actually reaching terminal markets has been earmarked for Government purchase. General outlook for short butter supplies for civilians.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Farmers likely to begin 1944 with at least 8 percent more laying hens than a year earlier but the tight feed situation is likely to reduce the number of hens during 1944. Fair prospect, however, for total egg production next year at least as large as in 1943. Supplies of turkeys this fall will be slightly smaller than last, since output is less and much greater quantities are being taken by the military. Turkey prospect for next year favorable, heaviest turkey producing regions being located in the feed surplus sections.

Total egg production in the United States January-August, 1943 was 13 percent larger than same months of 1942, which set the previous record. Stocks of shell eggs September 1 totaled 7.5 million cases, compared

with 6.8 million year previous, but actual quantity for civilian use in the current season cannot be determined for several months. Dried egg production this year will use 800 million dozens of eggs, this output about 20 percent larger than in 1942 and more than six times the 1941 output.

FATS AND OILS

Output of fats and oils from domestic materials considered likely to total about 11.6 billion pounds in 1943-44 crop year, compared with about 11 billion in 1943 and 10 billion in 1942. Probably more oilseeds next year but animal fats likely to be less in fall of 1944, assuming smaller pig crop.

U. S. will be net exporter of fats this year for first time since 1924. To restore consumption to 75 percent of prewar, in the first year after war Continental Europe and western Russia will have to import 3 to 4 billion pounds of fats, much of which may have to come from U. S.

FARM LABOR

Farm work unusually active in early September, due to early maturing of cotton and several other crops. Number of people working on farms September 1 was 11.5 million compared with 11.4 year ago. Increase accounted for by family workers, latter number estimated this September 8.4 million, about 3 percent higher than the 8.2 million family workers year ago. Hired workers on farms this September 3.1 million, about 3 percent less than year ago. Weather delayed late summer work which on top of early fall harvest, has brought tight farm labor situation all over the country.

FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during August, including Government payments, \$1,848 million, compared with \$1,435 million in August 1942. Government payments this August \$78 million, compared with \$23 million a year ago.

For the 8 months January-August total income \$11,613 million, which includes \$496 million Government payments. Comparable figure last year \$8,899 million, which included \$484 million Government payments.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	SEPT. 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	193
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	165
Parity ratio		117
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	162
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	² 251
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	³ 389
RATIOS	LONG-TIME SEPT.-AVERAGE	SEPT. 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.6	12.9
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	24.6	22.5
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.27	1.26
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	18.8	19.3
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-AUG. 1942	JAN.-AUG. 1943
Milk, (Bill. lb.)	84.2	83.9
Eggs, (Bill.)	36.8	41.7
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	4,186	3,637
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	532	567
All meats, ⁴ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	8,624	9,033

¹August figure. ²June figure. ³Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure. ⁴Federally inspected slaughter. January-June figure.